police investigation into this case indicated that a telephone installed at the official residence of a driver of the jail was being contacted with the help of the seized SIM Card. The delinquent driver has been served with Show Cause Notice for initiating disciplinary proceedings against him.

(c) The steps taken by the Jail Administration to enusre that the prohibited articles are not passed inside the Jail include searching and frisking of the staff and visitors before entering and leaving the Jail premises; carrying out of surprise searches under the supervision of senior officers; and use of sophisticated gadgets like metal detectors, deep search metal detectors and Cell Phone detectors by the frisking team to detect the prohibited articles.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Privatisation of coal industry

1154. PROF. RAM DEO BHANDARY: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the present policy in regard to mining and exploration of coal in the country;

(b) whether it is a fact that coal industry has been opened for private participation;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether it is a fact that there is wide criticism from workers' unions in this regard;

(e) if so, whether Government propose to reconsider the issue of privatisation of coal industry in the country; and

(f) if not, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN): (a) to (c) Private coal mines were nationalized in 1972 and 1973 in order to augment coal production in the country by adopting advanced mining technology. In 1993, private sector participation in coal mining was allowed by allowing coal mining for captive use by companies engaged in production of iron & steel, power generation and washing of coal obtained from a mine. Later on, companies engaged in cement production were also allowed coal mining for their captive use.

Recent assessment about the demand and indigenous supply position of coal over the next decade made by the Planning Commission and the Ministry of Coal shows a gap of 30.06 million tonnes, 162.28 million tonnes and 260.30 million tonnes during 2001-02, 2006-07 and 2011-12, respectively. Public sector alone will not be able to mobilize adequate resources to step up coal prodution to meet the ever increasing demand. The Central Government have, therefore, decided to allow Indian companies to do coal mining without the restriction of captive consumption, and to engage in exploration of coal, subject to appropriate legislative changes.

(d) Some trade union organisations have been opposing the opening up of various areas of national economy, including coal, to the private sector. The All India Workers' Federation, a trade union organisation affiliated to CITU, went on strike from 20th November, 2000 to 22nd November, 2000 in support of a number of demands which included opposition to the private sector's entry in coal mining.

(e) and (f) The proposed amendment to Coal Mines (Nationalisation) Act, 1973, does not seek to privatise the existing public sector coal companies but seeks to augment production of coal in the country by allowing the Indian companies both in public as well as private sector to do non-captive coal mining to bridge the gap between the demand and supply of coal at the end of Xth and XIth Plan periods.

Mines Rescue Stations

1155. SHRI JIBON ROY: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Mines Rescue Stations were working under a separate organization in the past;

(b) if so, whether they were handed over to Coal India Ltd. by Government;

(c) if the answer to (b) is positive the reasons therefor;

(d) whether in the rescue organization the work was allotted to workers by rotation;

(e) if so, whether it has affected the rescue organization in coal mines; and

(f) The steps being taken to ensure proper rescue operations for coal mines?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN): (a) Yes, Sir. In pursuance of the provisions of the